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Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 7(m))

# ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE

(Commission decision N (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision N (44). In paragraph 2 of the decision the Commission called upon the Executive Secretary "to undertake a study on the areas of co-operation already identified in his report E/ECE/1189 in order to lead where appropriate to an action which fully corresponds to the need expressed by the Mediterranean countries". Accordingly this report focuses on a selection of activities which are judged to be of direct interest to countries of the Mediterranean region.

2. In paragraph 6 of decision N (44) the Commission requested the Executive Secretary, "after consultations with the interested Governments, to identify specific areas of possible co-operation in the field of the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean, taking all necessary measures to avoid duplication of work with other international organizations". Accordingly the Executive Secretary wrote to ECE Governments on 9 October 1989 asking them to communicate to the secretariat any proposals which they might have in this respect. Replies have been received from Cyprus, Spain and Turkey. These replies are summarized in paragraph 13 below.

GE.90-20925/5632a

3. In the Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting of the CSCE the participating States in conformity with the provisions of the Mediterranean chapters of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, agreed to convene a Meeting on the Mediterranean in order to consider ways and means of further enhancing various aspects of co-operation including the protection and improvement of Mediterranean ecosystems with the aim of widening the scope of their co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States and contributing to the strengthening of confidence and security in the region. In paragraph 4 of resolution 1 (44) the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accept the invitation to attend the Meeting which will be held in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) from 24 September to 19 October 1990 and to contribute within existing resources and drawing on ECE experience to the preparation of the meeting, if invited to do so by the host country.

4. The secretariat has continued to co-operate with the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on projects of common interest to all Mediterranean countries, as called for in paragraph 3 of decision N (44). The Executive Secretaries of the three regional commissions have consulted on projects of mutual interest.

5. The Executive Secretary has transmitted ECE documentation to non-ECE Mediterranean countries and has invited those countries to participate in relevant ECE meetings. Representatives from non-ECE Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Israel, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia) participated in ECE meetings during 1989 in the fields of agriculture, electric power, gas, steel, timber, trade, and transport.

Sub-programme 01.2 - Economic development, problems and prospects in the ECE region

6. The south European countries which belong to the Mediterranean region are included in the analysis of developments contained in the Economic Bulletin for Europe, Vol.41. Similarly, the Economic Survey of Europe in 1988-1989 contains a section on recent economic developments in southern Europe. The same publication contains a study entitled "Effects of west European integration on imports of manufactures from eastern and southern Europe". In addition the secretariat is carrying out a project on population, development and migration in close collaboration with selected south European countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia).

Programme 01(a) - Engineering Industries and Automation

7. Under the auspices of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, a new study on food-processing machinery, including packaging techniques was initiated in 1988 which is of considerable interest to Mediterranean countries. The second ad hoc meeting for the study will be held in October 1990, and a study tour of the Hungarian food-processing industry will be held in May 1991.

Programme 01(b) - General energy

8. A Project on Energy Efficient Building aimed at improving energy efficiency and solar applications, especially in ECE member countries in the Mediterranean region, was launched in 1988 with the financial support of UNDP.

9. A report on "Recent Energy Developments in the Balkan Region" has been prepared to set out recent energy developments including energy reserves and resources, energy intensities, primary energy production and consumption, per capita consumption, final demand and net trade. The importance of the growing role of electricity and a Balkan interconnection is stressed. Country projections of energy and priority policy concerns are analysed. Reports on "Recent Developments in Bulgaria and Romania" have been prepared along the lines mentioned above.

Programme 02 - Agriculture

10. The Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce, and notably its Groups of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and of Dry and Dried Produce, deal with produce of considerable economic interest to Mediterranean countries. This interest is reflected in the participation of countries from this region in meetings and also in regular requests for material and information. In the coming years the already increasing interest of consumers in ECE member countries in high quality horticultural products will further influence the quality aspects of agricultural products in international markets. The increased interest and participation of exporting countries outside the ECE region in the activities of the Working Party and the Groups of Experts are likely further to strengthen the role of the Working Party in international trade facilitation, particularly as the ECE standards serve as the basis for existing and proposed European Community and CMEA standards. More active expert participation in ECE standardization activities would serve to enhance the position of the Mediterranean countries in export trade.

11. A Symposium on Improved Irrigation Practices to Preserve and Protect Water Resources and Increase Crop Yields was held in September 1989 at Avignon (France). This meeting attracted active participation from many Mediterranean countries in view of the importance of a rational use of the scarce water resources for maintaining agricultural production in this region. The Symposium recommended that the activities of the Committee on the technical and economic aspects of water use in agriculture should be maintained.

Programme 04 - Coal

12. Several countries of the Mediterranean region have large reserves of low-calorific-value solid fuels. For some of them these fuels represent the only major energy source, in particular for electricity and heat production. The major constraint is how to produce and utilize coal in an environmentally-efficient manner. The next Meeting of Experts on Opencast Mines to be held in Belgrade (Yugoslavia) in May 1990 and the ECE/UNDP Inter-Country Project on Low-Calorie Solid Fuels Technologies (with the participation of Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Yugoslavia) provide an opportunity for closer collaboration in the fields of coal production and utilization. Problems

related to coal production and the environment will also be considered at the Meeting of Directors of National Mining Research Institutes in Ankara (Turkey) in April 1990. A Meeting of Experts on Coal Utilization and an Ad hoc Meeting on Classification of Coals were held in Portugal in September 1989.

Programme 05 - Environment

13. Governments from Mediterranean countries identified specific areas of possible co-operation in the field of the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean and referred in particular to: pollution of groundwater in coastal areas especially from diffuse sources such as agricultural activities; over-use of these resources for agriculture and tourism resulting in sea-water intrusion; industrial pollution; waste water treatment and industrial and urban solid waste disposal in coastal areas; reception facilities for dirty ballast waters; transport of toxic substances likely to affect the coastal areas or induce marine pollution; forest fires; soil loss; desertification; air pollution which adversely affects coastal areas and the marine environment. Governments noted that a number of these activities were already included in the Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1985. It was further proposed that ECE provide country assistance in the fields of environmental impact assessment; environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes with emphasis on methods for their disposal; and endemic fauna excluding avifauna, insects and mites.

14. Under the ECE/UNDP Project on "Environmental Planning and Management: Air Pollution (RER/87/010), five sub-programmes for air pollution abatement technology are now operational: flue-gas treatment; fuel treatment; standard-setting and economic incentives; low-emission combustion processes (lead-country: Yugoslavia); by-product utilization and disposal (lead-country: Malta). Two of the 1989 task force meetings took place in Mediterranean countries -- Rabat (Morocco) in February and Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) in March. Plans are under way to organize a workshop and exhibition on elementary anti-pollution technology, together with a joint meeting of all five sub-programmes, in Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia) in September 1990.

Programme 07 - Gas

15. The work of the Committee on Gas in the field of natural and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is of interest to countries of the Mediterranean which make use, or intend to make use, of these gaseous fuels in covering their energy requirements. ESCWA is organizing a symposium on developments and prospects of natural gas and LPG to the year 2000 and beyond in early 1991. The Committee has requested the secretariat to support ESCWA in organizing the symposium, taking into account the interests of countries bordering the Mediterranean which have established interregional gas trade and prospects that such trade will increase in the future. ECA will also participate in the symposium.

16. The Committee has also requested the secretariat to initiate a study on the future prospects of further integration and extension of gas grids in the ECE region, which for countries bordering the Mediterranean is of particular significance as they seek to diversify and increase gas exports/imports.

READEX FICHE

17. In order to combat serious air pollution problems in a number of Mediterranean countries, alternative fuels to oil-based products are being actively promoted. This subject will be examined in the Symposium on the Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and LPG for Internal Combustion Engines to be held in Kiev (Ukrainian SSR) in September 1991.

Programme 08 - Housing, Building and Planning

18. There is a close relationship between the work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning and projects in the Mediterranean Action Plan on the "Feasibility Study for the Development of a Regional Co-operation Project on Mediterranean Coastal Human Settlements". The fifteenth Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe was held in Marseille and Toulouse (France) in October 1989, and was devoted mainly to an evaluation of laws and regulations and envisaged action to improve the housing situation.

Programme 09 - Inland Transport

19. At its second regular session, in July 1988, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided to confer United Nations status on the Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean in Volos (Greece), the Transport Sutdy Centre for the Western Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain), and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul (Turkey), on the understanding that there would be no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations; such status would take effect upon the conclusion of agreements between the United Nations and the respective Governments concerning the conditions of such status.

20. While this matter is still under discussion, the Centres continue to co-operate with the Inland Transport Committee on the basis of programmes of work which are complementary to the programme of work of that Committee.

21. Work on the implementation of the Trans-European North-South Motorway Project (TEM) has continued with the financial assistance of UNDP. The institutional and technical know-how accumulated during the previous phases of the TEM Project serve as the basis of outreach activities in the form of training programmes, workshops, expert services, publications, etc. for the benefit of countries outside the ECE region, and in particular Mediterranean countries.

22. The UNDP project on International Transport Development: Mediterranean, Europe and Middle East was considered in March 1989 by a Task Force for Projects Related to Transport and Communications, convened by UNDP in preparation of the Mid-Term Review for the Fourth Cycle of UNDP Programmes for Europe which was held in July 1989. The Task Force decided that an independent consultant should reassess the scope and structure of the project and prepare a report for consideration at the Mid-Term Review Meeting.

23. At the Mid-Term Review Meeting in July 1989 it was further decided that a decision as to the future of the project would be taken after all concerned had had an opportunity to study the consultant's report in depth. Following consultations between the UNDP and ECE secretariats and with the Governments concerned, it is envisaged to revise the project document in order to improve

the co-ordination of activities with other projects, in particular concerning traffic flows analyses.

24. The constitutive meeting of the Trans-European North-South Railway Project (TER) will take place from 26 to 29 March 1990. This new project is designed to facilitate and develop railway traffic in Europe by co-ordinating existing national railway systems in their technical, economic and managerial aspects. The project will provide for: (i) studies and preliminary designs concerning possible improvements to the network; (ii) harmonization of construction schedules, if possible accelerating construction activities; (iii) harmonization of requirements for construction, maintenance, operation and management; (iv) identification of needs and possibilities for obtaining financial support; and (v) promotion of a higher level of expertise within the region as a result of systematic exchange of data and experience through seminars, training activities and collaboration in the execution of individual studies.

25. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1987/69, requested the Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA to submit to its second regular session of 1989 an interim report on the progress being made in the studies related to a Europe-Africa link through the Strait of Gibraltar. This report (E/1989/58) reviewed recent studies done with respect to the reconnaissance of the physical characteristics of the terrain as well as engineering, economic, financial and legal aspects of building such structures.

26. At its second regular session in 1989 the Council adopted resolution 1989/119 inviting interested Governments and institutions to attend the International Colloquium on the Fixed Crossing to be held from 16 to 18 May 1990 in Marrakesh (Morocco) and asked the Executive Secretaries of ECE and ECA to submit an evaluation report to this colloquium as well as an interim report to the second regular session of the Council in 1991.

Programme 10 - Science and Technology

27. Since most of the countries bordering the Mediterranean, both from the ECE region as well as North Africa and Western Asia, are in seismically active areas, the work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology in the field of earthquake prediction is of particular interest. Following the Seminar on the Prediction of Earthquakes held in Lisbon (Portugal) in November 1988, the Commission adopted decision F (44) calling for the continuation of ECE activities in this field. The Senior Advisers are expected to decide on follow-up action at their session in September 1990.

Programme 12 - Statistics

28. The ECE has co-operated with the UN Statistical Office and the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) in preparing the International Training Workshop on Disability Statistics, organized in Malta in November 1989.

29. The ECE has continued its work on the Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2), with the financial assistance of UNDP. The aim of the Project is further to improve statistical computing capabilities in national

statistical offices, particularly in European IPF countries and in developing countries, including countries of the Mediterranean. In 1989 a further Mediterranean country, Albania, joined the Project. Within the framework of this Project, the ECE secretariat has been asked by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of the Netherlands to act as a dissemination centre for distributing the software BLAISE, developed by the CBS, to developing countries, including those in the Mediterranean region.

30. In order to facilitate the exchange of statistical data between the ECE Statistical Division and national statistical offices, telecommunication links with ECE member countries are currently being tested. As part of this exercise, a successful test has already been conducted with the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia. Similar tests are envisaged with other ECE member countries of the Mediterranean.

Programme 14 - Timber

31. The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training completed work in 1989 on the preparation of a publication, under the direction of Spanish experts and involving other south European countries, on afforestation techniques for Mediterranean-type conditions. The publication is being issued in English, French and Spanish. The first two of a regular biannual series of the International Forest Fire News have been issued. The Joint Committee's team of specialists on forest fires drew up the programme for a seminar scheduled for 1991 on Forest Fires, Land Use and People. The topic is of particular concern to countries in the Mediterranean region and the seminar is planned to be held in a south European country. The Joint Committee's Steering Committee prepared proposals for a seminar, also in 1991, on Vocational Training of Forest Workers, aimed especially at countries in southern Europe. It is also planned to be held in one of these countries.

32. A Seminar on the Mechanization of (Wood) Harvesting Operations in Mountainous Terrain, was held at Antalya (Turkey) in 1989, which gave particular attention to the technologies and systems appropriate for the socio-economic, topographic and environmental conditions of southern Europe. The Seminar drew attention to the need to reconcile the irreversible trend towards increased mechanization of harvesting in mountainous terrain with the need for it to be appropriate to meet environmental, social and long-term forest development objectives, a problem often particularly acute in countries of the Mediterranean region.

Programme 15 - Trade

33. At its thirty-eighth session the Committee on the Development of Trade devoted particular attention to trade issues specific to ECE member countries which are developing from the economic point of view. Proposals for further studies will be made by concerned member countries and by the secretariat at the next session of the Committee.

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# STANDARDIZATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

(Commission decision O (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Commission decision O (44).

## First Meeting of Experts on Standardization Policies

2. The First Meeting of Experts on Standardization Policies, was held in May 1989 (STAND/GE.1/31). The Meeting of Experts agreed on further activities in all four areas of work, i.e. co-ordination, harmonization, certification and testing and on preparations for a Seminar on International Standards for Environmental Protection to be held in May 1990 in connection with the Eleventh Meeting of Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies and in co-operation with ISO.

## Meeting of Rapporteurs

3. At the invitation of the Government of the United States of America and pursuant to a decision taken at the First Meeting of Experts, the Rapporteurs and Co-ordinators appointed by the Tenth Meeting of Government Officials met in Washington D.C. from 18 to 28 September 1989. Visits were made to a number of private sector standards organizations. The Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs

finalized the preparations for the Eleventh Meeting of Government Officials to be held in May 1990 and commenced preparations for a one-day seminar on international standards for environmental protection to be held during that meeting. Preparations for the seminar will be completed at an ad hoc meeting in Prague (Czechoslovakia) in February 1990.

Work on standardization by other subsidiary bodies of the ECE

4. Accounts of the work on standardization of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies (in particular the Committee on Agricultural Problems, the Coal Committee, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, the Inland Transport Committee and the Conference of European Statisticians) are contained in their reports to the forty-fifth session. An inter-divisional team continues to ensure liaison between secretariat staff servicing relevant meetings.

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5. In the light of the above, the Commission may wish:

(a) to take note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission in the field of standardization and related activities (E/ECE/1219) and the report of the First Meeting of Experts on Standardization Policies (STAND/GE.1/31);

(b) to confirm that the Eleventh Meeting of Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies will be held in Geneva from 7 to 11 May 1990 pursuant to the authority in that respect given to the Meeting by the Commission at its forty-fourth session;

(c) to convene the Second Meeting of Experts on Standardization Policies in the first half of 1991. During that Meeting, which might last for three days, experts should consider any matters which may be referred to them by the Eleventh Meeting of Governmental Officials;

(d) to request the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of this decision.

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# ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

(Commission decision P (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph (c) of decision P (44).

2. The tenth session of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation was held from 21 to 23 February 1990. The main activities since its creation were reviewed in a Note entitled "The Working Party's First Decade" (ECE/ENG.AUT/41). The programme of work for 1990-1994 as adopted by the Working Party and the calendar of planned and proposed meetings are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the report of the tenth session (ECE/ENG.AUT/42).

3. The eleventh Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation (third Joint Meeting with the Conference of European Statisticians), held in October 1989, reviewed the draft of the Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation, 1988. This was subsequently published (ECE/ENG.AUT/39). The Bulletin of World Trade in Engineering Products, 1988, will be published in April 1990.

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4. The Seminar on Computer-Integrated Manufacturing was held at Botevgrad (Bulgaria) from 25 to 29 September 1989 (ENG.AUT/SEM.8/5). It was organized in co-operation with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

5. Preparations are continuing for the first Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering: REHAB-1, to be held in Washington D.C. (United States) from 14 to 16 June 1990, in conjunction with the 13th Annual Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies (RESNA). Preparations have also started for the second and third workshops, to be held in 1991. All three workshops are being organized in co-operation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE).

6. The current project on rehabilitation engineering could be considered the ECE contribution to the ongoing United Nations Decade on Disabled Persons (see also E/ECE/1200 on resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and para.10 below).

7. Work is continuing on the study of food-processing machinery, including packaging techniques. The consolidated draft study will be considered at a second (and final) ad hoc meeting, to take place no later than October 1990. A study tour of the Hungarian food-processing and packaging industries is scheduled for May 1991.

8. The Seminar on Air Pollution Control in Engineering Industries will be held at Geneva from 12 to 16 November 1990, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland.

9. Work has commenced on the study of low-waste technologies in engineering industries, as have preparations for an ad hoc meeting to be convened in October 1990 to consider an expanded and more precise outline for a seminar on new materials and their application in engineering industries. In this respect, a public lecture delivered by Mr. V.I. Trefilov, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, within the framework of the tenth session underlined the important economic and environmental consequences of the introduction of new materials.

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10. The Commission may wish:

(a) To take note of the Report of the tenth session of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation (ECE/ENG.AUT/42) and the Report by the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1220);

(b) To approve the programme of work for 1990-1994 and the calendar of meetings of the Working Party as contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to document ECE/ENG.AUT/42;

(c) To recognize the three workshops being organized by the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation in the field of rehabilitation engineering as a contribution of the Commission to the activities of the ongoing United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons;

(d) To request the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the implementation of this decision.

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# MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND ISSUES: ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH CONDITIONS

(Commission decision Q (44))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision Q (44).

2. With respect to paragraph 3 of that decision, the Commission is informed that a Seminar on Personal and Collective Services will be held in The Hague on 9-12 October 1990 at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands. At its meeting in September 1989 the Bureau of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments adopted an agenda and proposed a list of topics to be addressed by the Seminar. General Rapporteurs were nominated and a timetable adopted for the submission of country contributions and the preparation of synthesis reports by the General Rapporteurs.

3. Recalling that the Senior Economic Advisers had proposed a number of topics they considered significant in the context of discussions on the conditions of medium-term economic growth (paragraph 4), the Commission requested the secretariat "to prepare a note setting out these topics in a coherent manner, on the basis of the assumptions and results in the Overall Economic Perspective (OEP) to the Year 2000" (paragraph 5). Twenty-one countries replied to a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat and using the

OEP assumptions. With the help of these replies and other relevant material, the secretariat has prepared a note to be discussed by the Senior Economic Advisers at their twenty-sixth session which will take place on 28 May-1 June 1990. In this note a distinction is made between the opportunities and risk factors of growth and also between specific country factors and factors which involve co-operation between member countries.

4. The Commission requested the Senior Economic Advisers "to select, on the basis of proposals by member countries, those topics which could be covered by future seminars or special meetings" (paragraph 6). Proposals by member countries will be discussed by the Senior Economic Advisers at their twenty-sixth session.

5. With respect to paragraph 7 of decision Q (44) the maintenance and development of a specialized macro-economic data base is considered by the Senior Economic Advisers as an essential requirement for the continuation of medium- and long-term perspective analysis. Accordingly, the scope of this data base is extended progressively by the secretariat to encompass new data relevant to macro-economic analysis. The secretariat will also take steps to develop the Simulation Exploratory Model (SEM) system and update and extend it in accordance with the data base possibilities and analytical requirements of the Senior Economic Advisers.